The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Proceedings in Congress Yesterday.

The Proposition to Restore the Arlington Estate to the Lee Family.

Exciting Debate on the McCreery Resolution.

The House Bill to Consolidate the Postal Laws Passed in the House.

General Pleasanton Nominated to the Senate as Internal Revenue Commissioner.

Estimate of Lands Granted to the Pacific Railroads.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE NURSERY RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE ARLINGTON ESTATE passed by the House of Representatives to-day, was the subject of discussion in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 13.—The great feature of the Senate proceedings to-day, was the discussion of the resolution reported from Kentucky proposing to restore to the heirs of Gen. Robert E. Lee the property known as the Arlington estate, which was confiscated by the United States during the late war. Senator McCreery, of Kentucky, who introduced the resolution, said that he would offer it to-day, and would not call it up to-morrow, as the latter day was the regular time of the meeting of the Committee on Military Affairs, of which he was a member, and he desired to be present when the resolution was considered. He would have offered it to-day, but that he would rather be present when it was acted upon. He would not call it up to-morrow, because that was the regular day for

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1870.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Some days ago, in advance of the publication of the report of the Secretary of War, we expressed our expectation of that document as an interesting public paper. We had occasion to differ from the Secretary in the matter of economy in the army after Jan. 1, 1871, supposing that officers who will under the existing law, have to be honorably mustered out of service at that date. General Rollins says:

"As many of the officers who will, of necessity, be retired on the 1st day of July, 1871, under the provisions of the act of July 15, 1870, have served in the war with honor and distinction, and have nearly or quite reached the age of sixty years, it is hoped that provision may be made by law for their retirement with the rank and pay they now hold, or will hold at the time they are retired, on the 1st day of July, 1871. The adoption of such a measure would be a graceful act on the part of the nation, and would relieve the service of many officers who, from age and infirmities, are unfit for active duty in the field."

We submit to this proposition, not because we desire to see any faithful or meritorious officer, especially of long service, forced into premature retirement, having provided for the future needs of these supernumerary officers with a year's notice, or having no further occasion for their services after Jan. 1, 1871, but because we do not believe that the country, in its present financial condition, can afford to pay over-grown salaries to idle officers, even for a year. The Secretary of War himself says, in effect, that if economy requires any reduction of the army, it must be made in the officers, and not in the men. Congress will not, we presume, be willing to reduce the number of officers, and thereby increase the number of men, for the sake of economy. Nor will Congress be willing to increase

DR. RYDER ON THE BLUNDERS OF LIFE.

Rev. W. H. Ryder lectured last evening in St. Paul's Universalist Church, on "Wasted Wrecks and Wasted Lives," on the subject of the "Improvement of Failure."

He pointed out the fact that the greatest blunders of life proceed from the want of a proper appreciation of the Creator, the creature being slim.

The Chair announced the following list of names of ladies and gentlemen appointed as Executive Committee for the Sanitarium Institute.

The ordinary business of the meeting was, on motion, dispensed with, and Prof. D. Schweinfurth, who had been announced to lecture on the subject of the blue color of the sky, the lecturer not being present, Dr. Andrews was called upon to address the meeting.

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ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

Why Lake Michigan is Blue and the Chicago River Lead Color—The Darwinian Theory.

A regular meeting of the Academy of Sciences was held last evening in the Academy of that institution, Dr. R. Andrews presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, whereupon Dr. Andrews proceeded to address the meeting by the remarks upon the question, the reason why Lake Michigan was blue, and the Chicago River lead color.

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It has not been customary for the Academy to allude to the current topics of the day, but the recent discussion of the Darwinian theory of the origin of species, and the connection of that theory with the views of the Genesis, seems to call for the remarks which I am about to make.

Interesting discussion on the paper was participated in, after which it was resolved that the thanks of the Academy be tendered to Dr. Andrews for his paper, and that a copy be requested for publication.

Mr. Ingalls, in answer to a question, declared that the Chicago River was not lead color.

Mr. Wadsworth believed that the color of Lake Michigan was due to the presence of sediment in the water

KODAK